

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes September 20, 2012

Bob Duranleau	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Cindy Namer	MaineHousing
Annmarie Bryce	SMAA
Dan Coyne	United Way of Greater Portland
Beth Heywood	Shalom House
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Amanda Kyajohnian	Shalom House
Amy Faulkingham	2-1-1 Maine
Jon Bradley	Preble Street
Patti Robinson	Preble Street
Therese Johnson	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
Carol Hutchins	Bayside Neighborhood Association
Mary Ellen Welch	Community Policing
Shana Pike	MAPS/Step Up
Tom Ptacek	Homeless Voices for Justice
Jim Devine	Homeless Voices for Justice
Kathleen Babeu	City of South Portland
Jenny Stasio	Family Crisis Services
Greg Payne	Avesta Housing
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Trista Collins	DHHS
Evelyn Blanchard	Milestone Foundation
Tom Natalie	Milestone Foundation
Joe McNally	Milestone Foundation

I. Introductions

Tom Ptacek, ESAC Tri-Chair, welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made.

II. August Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for August 2012:

	<u>August 2011</u>	<u>August 2012</u>
Adolescents	15 Individuals	14 Individuals
Adults	260 Individuals	304 Individuals
Families	<u>106 Individuals (42 Families)</u>	<u>133 Individuals (53 Families)</u>
Total	381 Individuals	451 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for August 2011 were 463 while the total bed nights for August 2012 were 428. These figures indicate a decrease of 8% between August 2011 and August 2012. Four (4) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Jon stated it looks certain that the new building will be open before the end of the year, hopefully around Thanksgiving; it's moving along very quickly.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 4119 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in August 2012 as compared to 3282 bed nights in August 2011. This represents an increase of 26% in Family Shelter bed usage between August 2011 and August 2012.

The Family Shelter placed 6 families for a total of 28 individuals into housing in August.

The Family Shelter received 31 new families (intakes) for a total of 108 individuals in August. Based on self-reporting 14 families for a total of 47 individuals stated they had never been homeless before, of these 10 families for a total of 37 individuals were refugees.

Bob discussed the families that are presenting at the Oxford Street Shelter after hours seeking shelter and procedures that they're putting in place to avoid these after-hours family shelter placements. Bob provided a brief overview of the overflow situation at the Family Shelter.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 17% in August 2012 compared to August 2011. Total bed night usage during August 2011 was 8053 while it was 9415 during August 2012.

During the month of August, there were 179 intakes at the Oxford Street Shelter, 133 men and 46 women. An Intake or New Arrival is defined as an individual that has not stayed at the Shelter for a period of three (3) months or longer. Based on self-reporting, 54 individuals stated they had never been homeless before (38 men and 16 women).

Oxford Street Shelter Support Services team placed 43 individuals into permanent housing (37 men and 6 women), with two (2) individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Florence House Women's Shelter served a total of 56 women during the month of August, including 17 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 14 of these 17 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 6 individuals into housing, with 3 women returning.

First Time Homelessness

For the month of August 119 individuals, or 38% of all new intakes, reported experiencing homelessness for the first time, based on self-reporting.

Bob reviewed the handout featuring warming center statistics.

Family Shelter FY 2012 Statistics

Bob distributed and reviewed copies of sections from the Family Shelter FY 2012 Year End Report. There was a brief discussion regarding the Family Shelter FY 2012 statistics. The Family Shelter FY 2012 Year End Report is available on the City's website:

III. *Overflow Shelter Report*

Josh and Rob could not attend today's meeting, both of them worked late last night. They will provide an overflow update at the next meeting. Bob stated that it has been very busy at the shelter and community overflow. Due to the great work of Oxford Street staff and bed management the warming center only had to be utilized five (5) nights in August.

IV. *DHHS SSI Advocate*

Trista stated that she is in one of five (5) new SSI Advocate positions. She is stationed out of DHHS on Marginal Way in Portland, and covers the Cumberland County area; the other four (4) positions are located in Biddeford, Aroostook County, Lewiston, and Bangor. The SSI Advocates take referrals from the local General Assistance offices only. The newly created positions are meant to help people who

receive GA and to help people get through the SSI process quickly. They are targeting specific criteria and are specifically assisting people who do not have extensive work histories and probably won't qualify for SSDI. In Portland it will be a little different because Julie Glassock has been doing this work for quite some time already with Portland General Assistance clients. Trista added that she will be working with the shelters (only with shelter consumers who receive GA for shelter bed reimbursement) and towns outside of Portland. She added that she will be much more mobile, and will be meeting with clients offsite to avoid dealing with the long waits at the DHHS offices.

V. *Preble Street Veteran Housing Services Program Update –*

Therese stated that they're getting ready to wrap up the first year of the grant. The program has served 220 unduplicated individuals thus far, of which approximately 1/3 were at high risk of homelessness. The program has also served 18 families with children under 18 years of age; Jon stated that this number doesn't seem very high but it is much higher than predicted. Therese stated that over 70% of the individuals who entered the program homeless left the program housed. She mentioned that the collaborative efforts between Preble Street and the City of Portland have been tremendous for this program. Jon stated that they just received their year-end review and they're still considered one of the high performing programs in the region.

VI. *State of Maine HMIS Advisory Committee*

Jeff stated that they're continuing to work in their sub groups. Luckily, they will have Kat Freeman, TAC consultant, for the entire time. Jeff stated that his group is working on data quality and are meeting again on Friday. Jeff stated that the original October 17th deadline has been pushed back. Therese stated that everything is moving along well. Therese mentioned that a lot of the work has been very client centric. Jeff mentioned that the group still does not have an advocate. Therese stated that even if an advocate couldn't attend the meetings, it would be nice to have an advocate review the drafts. Tom stated that HVJ is very interested in doing this. Therese stated that they can take this proposal back to the group.

VII. *CoC Update*

Bob stated that the Portland CoC meetings have been very data centric lately. We are in the process of collecting contact information for staff at agencies that should be receiving the data report cards so we can distribute them electronically rather than print copies each month. Bob encouraged people to email Vickey with agency names and contact information for staff who should receive data reports cards, if they haven't already done so.

Bob stated that HUD is sponsoring some All Grantee meetings. There was an overwhelming response to the training in Boston on September 27th; they've scheduled another meeting for October 24th in Manchester, NH. Bob encouraged people to attend one of the meetings.

Bob mentioned that the funding formula is changing; this year everything, including Shelter + Care (S+C) grants, is part of the funding formula to determine pro rata share. The Maine CoC will be in the same renewal situation as Portland with the addition of S+C grants to their pro rata share which means they will have limited (if any) funds for new projects. Bob stated that the joint Maine CoC and Portland CoC comments on the Interim Rule were approved by the Portland CoC at yesterday's meeting. Cullen stated that the change that affects the Maine CoC also affects the Portland CoC. The populations that are served when there are additional funds tend to be chronic homeless populations. There used to be development of new housing and S+C, now this funding will potentially be gone. Cullen stated that both continuums should weigh in about this language in the Interim Rule. Cullen stated that the Maine CoC is going to Senator Collins asking her to comment on the Interim Rule as well.

Cindy stated that Doug Barley wanted to thank everyone for the improvement in data. He is getting ready to compile data for the AHAR and the data looks much better this year. Cindy stated that the compressing of Oxford Street Shelter data to figure out an accurate count regarding lengths of stay is up and running and is working well. This will also help with the AHAR. Doug wants to thank everyone for their hard work on this.

VIII. Task Force to Develop a Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness – Update

Tom stated that a draft has been put together by Tom McLaughlin; there will be a chance for public comment on the draft on October 3rd, in the State of Maine Room at City Hall from 6:00-8:00PM. Adjustments will be made based on comments received at the public forum and a final version of the report will be presented at City Council workshop on October 17th. Tom stated that voices at the meeting from people who do this work would be beneficial. There was a brief discussion regarding some of the recommendations in the draft report.

IX. Federal & State Legislation –

Cullen stated that nothing is really going on at the national and state levels due to the upcoming elections. He stated that this is a great time to have people from the State visit your programs so they can get a first-hand account of what goes on because they will be making decisions that will affect these programs. Cullen wanted to commend Bob for the work he did with the GA work group, specifically trying to find \$500,000 in savings. He stated that Bob was a voice of reason at these meetings, explaining the complexities and why seemingly simple solutions won't work.

Cullen added that Sequestration is approaching. A bipartisan committee was created to look at the deficit and if a compromise isn't found there will be automatic cuts across the board. Cullen stated that a compromise wasn't found; thus on January 1st there will be potential cuts across the board including: an 8.2% cut to HUD programs, with McKinney-Vento seeing a \$156 million which will cause 145,000 people to be homeless rather than housed; Section 8 Housing Choice will see a \$15.3 billion cut, which will cause 186,000 stably housed people to lose rental assistance; Project based rental assistance (programs such as Logan Place, Florence house, etc.) will see a \$772 million cut, causing 90,000 people to lose housing; and the HOME program will see a \$82 billion cut. Cullen stated that when they met with the congressional delegation in July in Washington, DC they made it very clear that this shouldn't occur. It is important to get a really clear message to our delegation in terms of what this will mean for Maine. Greg added that if these cuts go through Maine would lose 900 tenant based vouchers and another 500 project-based vouchers.

Cullen mentioned that usually every year MaineHousing holds an affordable housing conference to discuss the need for affordable housing; this conference is not being held this year. However, the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition is holding conference on November 14th in Portland, featuring HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. This conference is limited to 250 people. Greg suggested if people want to go to sign up very quickly; they are only four (4) days into registration and already have approximately 80 people registered.

X. Other Business

Bob stated that Pat McKenzie couldn't be here but wanted to share the State Street program has closed. The Opportunity Alliance made every effort to find funding for the program to no avail.

Jon stated that the State has made a decision about PATH funding, which was part of the State's plan when they eliminated the ICM program. Catholic Charities Maine (CCM) put in a statewide application (as required by the RFP) which included many sub contracted agencies, including Preble Street and the Opportunity Alliance. Jon stated that they haven't received many details but it was confirmed late last week that the State is going to fund the CCM application. Jon added that there will be further discussion about what this means in terms of expanded services. The start-up for the program will most likely be very quick.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, October 18, 2012
8:30 – 10:00 AM

Refugee Services Area, 190 Lancaster Street

Please contact Robert Duranleau, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division at 482-5124; John Shoos, United Way at 874-1000, or Tom Ptacek, HVJ at 775-0026; if you should have any agenda items for the next meeting.